

Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TA,S: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GREEK PRESS REACTION TO SISMIK VIOLATIONS

THE CLAIMED VIOLATION OF THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF BY THE SISMIK I AND THE GOG'S SUBSEQUENT PROTEST TO THE GOT WAS GIVEN BANNER HEADLINES IN THE GREEK PRESS, ALTHOUGH THE REPORTING WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND CALM. TURKEY'S ALLEGED SECOND VIOLATION AUGUST 7 WAS INTERPRETED AS A TURKISH REJECTION OF THE GOG'S PROTEST. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI REPORTED THAT THE GREEK PROTEST WAS NOT A "MILITARY ULTIMATUM" BUT AN ACTION TO ASSURE GREEK SOVEREIGNTY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ATHENS 8068, 8/8.)

2. SOVIETS SELL DETENTE

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EMBASSY MOSCOW REMARKS THAT TOP SOVIET MANAGEMENT CONTINUES

TO SELL THE ADVANTAGES OF DETENTE AND EXPANDED FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. IN A LONG INTERVIEW IN TRUD, FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE I. F. SEMICHAISTNOV:

--EXPLAINED THAT DETENTE HAD PERMITTED THE USSR TO EXPAND THE IMPORTATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES;

--CITED THE THREEFOLD INCREASE IN SOVIET TRADE WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DURING THE PERIOD 1971-1975; AND

--STRESSED THAT MODERNIZATION MADE SOVIET GOODS MORE COMPETITIVE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS APPROACH DIFFERS CONSIDERABLY FROM THAT PROMOTED BY DEPUTY GOSPLAN CHAIRMAN INAZEMTSEV, WHO IN 1975 CLAIMED THAT THE USSR COULD, IF NECESSARY, REACH ITS ECONOMIC TARGETS WITHOUT IMPORTING WESTERN EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 12463, 8/6.)

3. PORTUGAL: LEFTIST PRESSURE ON EANES

DURING AN AUGUST 6 CALL ON AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI, PPD SYG SA CARNEIRO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT THE GOP'S COMPLAINT ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE AT THE AZOREAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN LINKED TO THE PPD'S INVITATION. AFTER BEING ASSURED BY CARLUCCI THAT THE PPD HAD NOT ENTERED THE DISCUSSION, SA CARNEIRO CORROBORATED THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION THAT THE GOP'S COMPLAINT RESULTED FROM PRESSURE BY CERTAIN MILITARY FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH MELO ANTUNES.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THE INCIDENT DEMONSTRATES THE INFLUENCE THAT SOME LEFT WING MILITARY ELEMENTS ARE ABLE TO EXERCISE ON EANES, AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COUNTER THIS INFLUENCE. THESE ARE ASPECTS OF THE POLITICAL SCENE THAT WILL BEAR WATCHING. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5350 (LIMDIS), 8/7.)

4. SUDAN: AN EYE FOR AN EYE...

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EMBASSY KHARTOUM BELIEVES THAT THE GOS'S DECISION TO PUBLICIZE THE EXECUTIONS OF 96 PERSONS CONVICTED OF COMPLICITY IN LAST MONTH'S COUP ATTEMPT IS MEANT AS A WARNING THAT THOSE WHO CHALLENGE THE REGIME--BOTH LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS--WILL BE DEALT WITH HARSHLY. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

--SADDIQ AL-MAHDI, A FORMER SUDANESE PRIME MINISTER, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON IN WHICH HE CLAIMED

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT AND DECRIED THE LACK OF DEMOCRACY IN SUDAN.

--THE GOS MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, BONA MALWAL, CRITICIZED THE BBC'S DISSEMINATION OF AL-MAHDI'S REMARKS, SUGGESTING THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND THE GOS COULD BE ENDANGERED BY SUCH HOSTILE ACTIVITIES. (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 2323, 8/7.)

5. MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST YEAR

ASSESSING MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE, EMBASSY MAPUTO BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT MACHEL AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE FIRMLY IN CONTROL, DESPITE RUMORS OF DISSIDENCE IN THE NORTH AND THE BRIEF ARMY MUTINY IN DECEMBER. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW:

--MACHEL BELIEVES REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IS AS IMPORTANT AS LIBERATION, AND IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IDENTIFIES WITH HIS "NATURAL ALLIES," THE COMMUNISTS AND NON-ALIGNED RADICALS.

--HE PROBABLY DOES NOT WANT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE CHINESE AND IS NOT LIKELY TO GRANT THE USSR BASE RIGHTS.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT, OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO, MACHEL MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE WILL DETERMINE THE PACE AND DIRECTION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. GEOGRAPHY, HIS OWN DETERMINATION AND HIS RELATIONS WITH ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS ARE ON HIS SIDE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MAPUTO 886, 8/6.)

6. CYPRUS: PREPARING FOR COLOMBO CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY NICOSIA SPECULATES THAT THE GOC IS GETTING ITS PUBLIC IMAGE IN ORDER FOR COLOMBO AND THE UNGA BECAUSE:

--IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY, ARCH-BISHOP MAKARIOS PRAISED THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AS THE "MORAL CORE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY" AND PREDICTED THAT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT WILL CALL UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS.

--IN AN AUGUST 4 SPEECH, FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES STRONGLY SUPPORTED NEGOTIATIONS AND ENDORSED A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION, PROVIDED IT AFFIRMED THE UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: CHRISTOPHIDES' REMARKS ON THE GREEK CYPRIOT ATTITUDE TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS IS UNUSUALLY POSITIVE AND SHOULD HELP THE GOC IN PRESENTING ITS CASE TO THE NON-ALIGNED. THE ARCHBISHOP'S REMARKS INDICATE THAT THE GOC WILL BE PRESSING THE CONFERENCE FOR A STRONGLY PRO-GREEK RESOLUTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 2247, 8/6.)

7. VENEZUELA AT THE UNGA

WHILE IN CARACAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS SPOKE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR, MINISTER OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS PEREZ GUERRERO, AND VARIOUS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ABOUT THE UPCOMING UNGA. THE VENEZUELAN:

--BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WILL BE BOISTEROUS, WITH THE MIDDLE EAST AND TERRORISM ISSUES IN THE FOREFRONT;

--SHOULD BE ABLE AT LEAST TO VOTE FOR POSTPONEMENT IF AN EXTREME ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTION COMES UP;

--WILL AGAIN BE HELPFUL TO OUR POSITIONS ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO;

--AGREED THAT A DEBATE ON PANAMA AT THE UNGA WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DETRIMENTAL TO PROSPECTS FOR A TREATY AND SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ MIGHT BE ABLE TO PERSUADE TORRITOS TO MODERATE HIS POSITION; AND

--ARE LUKEWARM TO ECHEVERRIA'S SYG CANDIDACY. (CONFIDENTIAL) CARACAS 9590 (LIMDIS), 8/7.) HABIB

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